



LEEC

LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION COMMISSION

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A Weekly Compilation of Environmental Education News from Across Louisiana



The LEEC is now on Facebook!

Please "like" our page: <https://www.facebook.com/LouisianaEnvironmentalEducationCommission/>

Louisiana Environmental Education Symposium :: February 22-22, 2013 :: Baton Rouge Marriott



Full **concurrent session descriptions** are now posted at: www.wlf.la.gov/eec.

Hotel reservation deadline is February 15th! Make your hotel reservation by calling 1-800-MARRIOTT and reference the "2013 Environmental Education Symposium" or [click here](#).

Lodging assistance is available to those with significant drive times. Download the lodging application [here](#).

Registration is open for \$50! Download the symposium brochure with registration form [here](#). If you need **financial assistance** please contact Venise Ortego at vortego@wlf.la.gov for more information. The optional Short Course sessions on Friday, February 22 are filling quickly so register today to reserve your first choice!

Short Course Featured this Week ::

Innovative Designs & Practices Paving the Way to Sustainable Success Stories TOUR



Interested in the latest, greatest in sustainable building design?!

Begin this journey with a bus ride to the 2013 EPA Award-Winning St. Landry Parish landfill, but not for the big yuck factor that you'd expect! Civil Engineer Mr. Katry Martin will explain how methane is converted into fuel as you tour the grounds. Read what the EPA has to say about this cutting-edge facility – truly a game-changer for our environment:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/21B6555BDF795DA685257B0300732D5B>

Time to travel to the Award-Winning St. Landry Parish Visitor Center and see what planning, passion, and ingenuity can accomplish! Begin with a venture outside with Dr. Charles Allen, the landscape designer who planned the surrounding native habitat gardens. Enjoy his hands on (actually mouth on and nose on) presentation with fresh and dried samples of edible and useful plants, and freshly brewed teas by Dr. Allen, author of "Edible Plants of the Gulf South". And by the way, the sectional gardens are definitely something any teacher could develop in their own school yard!

Participants will then get to spend some time with local artist, Trish Ransom, who will teach you how to make art from debris. Her art is steeped in the past, renewing the old and regenerating interest in something we once ignored and discarded, in much the same way local French settlers created a stew called debris, using the often discarded portions after the boucherie. Trish does for jewelry what Zydeco does for music and shares her talents in school settings across the state each year. <http://www.debrisart.com/index1.html>



End your day with an inspection of the Visitor Center with architect Dr. Edward Cazayoux acting as your guide. Cazayoux has been practicing climate responsive architecture since 1976, winning the US Dept. of Energy Award for Energy Innovation in the early 1980s and last month the US Green Building Council award as Community Champion from the Louisiana chapter. <http://www.cajuntravel.com/tourist-info.php?page=visitor-center>



Then it's time to head back to Baton Rouge and discuss the possibilities with your fellow participants! Whew! Your heads will be swimming with ideas and inspiration!

Facilitators: Charles Allen, Ph.D., Author of "Edible Plants of the Gulf South"
Edward Cazayoux, Ph.D., Architect specializing in climate responsive architecture
Katry Martin, Civil Engineer
Trish Ransom, Artist specializing in repurposing

Grade Level: General
Location: Meet at Baton Rouge Marriott
Time: 8:00 AM–4:30 PM
Fee: \$10; lunch & transportation provided

GRANTS

LEEC is now accepting proposals for their 2013-2014 Grants Program. Submission deadline for each grant is **March 15, 2013**. Applications will be accepted via electronic submission only.

Educator Grants: Based on sound scientific principles, have an environmental focus, and be designed to directly impact Louisiana students. Those eligible: Accredited K-12 Louisiana schools. Maximum award: **\$1,000 for 1 teacher or \$2,000 for a team**

Formal/Non-Formal Educator/Professional Development Grants: Based on sound scientific principles, have an environmental focus, and be designed to directly impact pre-service and/or in-service educators in Louisiana. Those eligible: Louisiana education, state, or environmental agencies, colleges, universities, or 501(C)(3) nonprofit organizations. Maximum award: **\$2,500**

School Sustainability Grants: Designed to encourage student learning via sustainability initiatives in EPA Region 6 K-12 schools. Proposals to be considered are those within a specific school campus that will both actively engage students and result in a more sustainable facility. Those eligible: Accredited K-12 schools in EPA Region 6 area – **Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas**. Project funds are provided via a grant from the EPA Office of Environmental Education Sub-Grants Program to LDWF. Maximum award: **\$5000.00**

University Research Grants: Post-graduate research with a focus on environmental issues. Those eligible: Students attending Louisiana colleges or universities and who are working toward a Masters, Ph.D., or conducting Ph.D. research are eligible to apply on behalf of their school. Maximum award: **\$1,200**

For more information on these grants and **links to the applications** visit our website at: <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/eec> or contact: Venise Ortego, Environmental Education Coordinator, vortego@wlf.la.gov

NOAA announces new Environmental Literacy Grants funding opportunity

NOAA's Office of Education (OEd) has issued a request for applications for projects designed to build the capacity of informal educators (including interpreters and docents) and/or formal educators (pre- or in-service) to use NOAA data and data access tools to help K-12 students and/or the public understand and respond to global change. Successful projects will enhance educators' ability to use the wealth of scientific data, data visualizations, data access technologies, information products, and other assets available through NOAA (plus additional sources, if desired) to engage K-12 students and/or other members of the public in a minimum of two U.S. states or territories.

This funding opportunity identifies two priority categories of eligible applicants, both of equal importance. Eligible applicants for Priority 1 are collaborative teams of two or more U.S. institutions. Eligible applicants for Priority 2 are collaborative teams of two or more non-profit U.S. aquariums, of which at least one must be accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). Collaborative applicant teams in both Priority 1 and Priority 2 are strongly encouraged to include at least one applicant that has not previously received a grant from NOAA's Environmental Literacy Grants program. Proposed projects in each priority must be between two and five years in duration and have combined federal requests of \$500,000 - \$1,000,000 for all years of the project.

The **deadline** for applications to this funding opportunity is 11:59:59 pm EST on **March 12, 2013**. Applications must be submitted online via www.grants.gov. It is anticipated that awards under this announcement will be made by September 30, 2013 and that the projects funded under this announcement will have a start date no earlier than October 1, 2013.

Two **informational webinars** with the program officers will occur on **February 5, 2013 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm EST and February 6, 2013, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm EST**. By noon EST on February 1, 2013, interested applicants should register by contacting oed.grants@noaa.gov and including in the Subject line of the email: "Register for Educator Capacity Building FFO Webinar" and providing the interested party's name, institution, telephone number, email address and preferred webinar date in the body of the email. You will receive an email response from oed.grants@noaa.gov with the log-in information and date for the webinar. Whenever possible, individuals from the same institution should try to join the webinar from the same computer/phone line. To read the full funding announcement, visit www.grants.gov.

EVENTS

ASLO Aquatic Sciences Meeting

School groups with chaperones are welcome to visit the research vessel R/V Pelican docked alongside the northern, upstream entrance of the Ernst N. Morial Convention Center on **February 21, 2013**, from 8:00 am to 2:30 pm. Activities planned will address biology, chemistry and environmental science GLEs. 1 hour event. [Registration required by February 8, see below.] Individual students and their parents, or groups such as Scouts or Science Clubs, may visit and tour the ship from 2:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Activities on board for school groups include: *Plankton lab with water samples from the Mississippi River, visit to the wheelhouse and electronics lab, oil spill classroom activities, Gulf of Mexico 'Dead Zone' (low oxygen waters), oceanographic instrumentation and collection devices*

Please contact Murt Conover, 985-851-2860, mconover@lumcon.edu by February 8, to reserve school groups. Spaces are limited; first come, first served. *Please see attached PDF file for additional information.* Packets with further information for teachers will be provided prior to the visit.

CONFERENCES

2013 National Marine Educators Conference

Join the Southern Association of Marine Educators (SAME) for NMEA 2013 at the historic campus of Spring Hill College in Mobile, AL on **July 22-26**. Educators who are interested in the study and enjoyment of the world of water will gather for a week of enrichment, networking, and learning. Author and journalist, Richard Louv, will serve as the Keynote Speaker. Fun and engaging events with delicious Gulf of Mexico seafood, live music, and even a Mardi Gras Parade are planned to offer conference attendees a unique experience filled with southern hospitality. The full day field trips planned provide attendees an opportunity to bring new knowledge back into the classroom through an up close and personal encounter with the Gulf of Mexico region. Some examples include, exploring Mobile Bay via research vessel, taking a cooking class in Ocean Springs, and kayaking in the Mobile-Tensaw River Delta. For those interested in presenting a session, a call for papers will be open through March 15 (*see attached flyer*). Exhibitor applications will also be accepted through March 15. Full conference details: <http://nmea.disl.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/Nmea2013MobileAl>

WEBINARS

Mark Your Calendar Now: The Green Strides Webinar Series Continues in 2013

Through the [Green Strides Webinar Series](#) hundreds of state, local and school officials and their communities are tuning in to learn how to reduce their schools' environmental impact and costs; improve health and wellness; and teach effective environmental literacy, including STEM, green careers, and civic engagement. The Series provides administrators, educators, parents and interested third parties the resources to move toward the exemplary levels of U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools>>>.

Feb. 6, 2013, 4-5 p.m. [An Energy Literate Citizenry from K to Grey \(DOE\)](#)

Feb. 13, 2013, 4-5 p.m. [Emerging Green Technologies \(NASA\)](#)

Feb. 20, 2013, 4-5 p.m. [Climate Time Machine \(NASA\)](#)

OneNOAA Science Seminars

All seminars are open to the public and offer limited remote access on a first come first served basis, unless otherwise indicated. For complete seminar details visit [OneNOAA Science Seminars](#) (all seminar subject to change). For questions about the OneNOAA Science Seminars contact Hernan Garcia (Hernan.Garcia@noaa.gov)

[Towards Delivering GIS enabled Maritime Military Geospatial Information via Web Services](#)

February 4, 2013, 12:00 - 13:00 Eastern Time; NOAA HQ [SSMC-3](#) 4th Floor, Room 4817;

[GPM Satellite Simulator Over Ground Validation Sites](#)

February 5, 2013, 12:00-13:00 Eastern Time; [NOAA NCWCP](#) Conference Center (College Park, MD)

[The NOAA Sentinel Site Program](#)

February 5, 2013, 12:00 - 13:00 Eastern Time; NOAA HQ [SSMC-3](#) 2nd Floor Library

[Webinar: CanVis: A Tool for Visualizing Coastal Changes and Potential Adaptation Strategies](#)

February 6, 2013, 13:00 - 14:00 Eastern Time; Webinar/Conference Call Access Only

[Catch Share Programs: Fact and Fiction](#)

February 6, 2013, 13:00 - 14:00h Eastern Time; Webinar/Conference Call Access Only

[Coupled Human-Ocean Ecosystems: Navigating Toward Ecological and Social Resilience](#)

February 7, 2013; 11:00-12:00 Pacific Time; NOAA NWFSC Auditorium (Seattle, WA)

[Understanding and Monitoring Drought](#)

February 12, 2013, 13:00 - 14:15 Eastern Time; NOAA HQ [SSMC-3](#) 12th Floor Fishbowl

[Relationships Between Growth, The Cost of Tissue Synthesis, and Standard Metabolic Rate: Implications for Habitat Use and Life-History Adaptation in Salmonids](#)

February 14, 2013; 11:00-12:00 Pacific Time; NOAA NWFSC Auditorium (Seattle, WA)

[Food Security in the Kenai Peninsula: A Report on Local Seafood Use, Consumer Preferences, and Community Needs](#)

February 19, 2013; 10:00-11:00 Alaska Time; Online Access Only

[Factors Affecting the Preservation or Alteration of Human Remains, Clothing or Metals on the RMS Titanic & H.L. Hunley](#)

February 19, 2013; 12:00-13:00 Eastern Time; NOAA HQ [SSMC-3](#) Library

[Not impossible: Integrating Ecological Considerations and Cultural Values into Decision-Making](#)

February 21, 2013; 11:00-12:00 Pacific Time; NOAA NWFSC Auditorium (Seattle, WA 98112)

[Tracking Climate Change in the Northern California Current Pelagic Ecosystem: Response of Zooplankton in the Oregon Upwelling Zone to Large-Scale Climate Forcing with Thoughts on the Looming Problems of Hypoxia and Ocean Acidification](#)

February 28, 2013; 11:00-12:00 Pacific Time; NOAA [NWFSC Auditorium](#) (Seattle, WA)

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

BELL: Gifted High School Students Learn About Coastal Louisiana

Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana (CRCL) is working with Brown University's Brown Environmental Leadership Lab (BELL) to take gifted high school students on a tour of Southeastern Louisiana looking at land loss on the ground while talking to fishermen, oil and gas reps, scientists, and native communities about their perspective. Spots are still available. Scholarship opportunities are available and students need only check that they are interested in this funding. For more program information, visit: http://brown.edu/ce/pre-college/bell/gulf_coast/ or contact: Morgan Crutcher, Morgan.Crutcher@crcl.org, (225)767-4181, www.crcl.org.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY



The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana (CRCL) and the St. Tammany Parish Government are looking for volunteers to participate in a two day coastal forest tree planting restoration project at Bayou Chinchuba in Mandeville, LA on **Wednesday, February 6 & Thursday, February 7** from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. This project will improve water quality, reduce flooding,

create wildlife habitat, and provide a natural scenic area for the public by planting native trees and wetland vegetation in detention ponds. Volunteers can register for one or both days. All planting equipment (gloves, shovels, etc.), lunch, and refreshments will be provided. Volunteers need to be prepared to get muddy. This is a strenuous and dirty activity, so physical fitness is required. Additional information, including directions and what to bring, will be provided a few days prior to the event. Please register online at www.crcl.org or call the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana at 1-(888)-LACOST for more information.

AWARD NOMINATIONS

CRCL Now Accepting Nominations for Coastal Stewardship Awards

Nominations are being accepted for a person or organization that goes above and beyond in service to our coast for this year's CRCL Coastal Stewardship Awards on May, 10, 2013. This award is the highest honor given in coastal restoration to those with the leadership, drive and commitment to creating a sustainable coastal future for our state. Anyone can nominate a deserving candidate for an award. [View the nomination process and tell them who they should honor at the awards ceremony in May!](#) **Deadline is March 4.**

RESOURCES

American Academy of Pediatrics States That Recess is Necessary For Children

The American Academy of Pediatrics stated that, "Recess during school offers children cognitive, social, emotional, and physical benefits they don't get through academics alone". The policy statement emphasized that recess is "a necessary break in the day" and that it "should be considered a child's personal time, and it should not be withheld for academic or punitive reasons," according to Robert Murray, MD, of Ohio State University School of Medicine in Columbus, and Catherine Ramstetter, PhD, of the University of Cincinnati, and colleagues. [Read More](#) [Tweet This Story](#)



Find out about wetland outreach activities including symposiums, conferences, meetings, educational opportunities, volunteer opportunities, and related support material at the **Louisiana Unified Coastal Community Calendar** at <http://lacoast.gov/calendar/>

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